

Translation

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>0000054460</b>	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. <b>PCT/EP2004/003951</b>	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>14.04.2004</b>	Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>16.04.2003</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC		
<p>Applicant <b>BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT</b></p>		

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <b>4</b> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <b>3</b> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/003951

## Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
  - international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- the international application as originally filed/furnished
- the description:  
pages 1, 3-5 as originally filed/furnished  
pages\* 2 received by this Authority on 04.09.2004 with letter of 03.09.2004  
pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- the claims:  
nos. \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished  
nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
nos.\* 1-9 received by this Authority on 04.09.2004 with letter of 03.09.2004  
nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- the drawings:  
sheets \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished  
sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
  - the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
  - the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
  - the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
  - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
4.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
  - the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
  - the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
  - the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
  - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.  
PCT/EP2004/003951

Box No. V      Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 – 9	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 – 9	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 – 9	YES
	Claims		NO

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

- D1: WO 92/22521 A (ARISTECH CHEMICAL CORP) 23 December 1992 (1992-12-23)
- D2: EP 0 522 368 A (ARISTECH CHEMICAL CORP) 13 January 1993 (1993-01-13)

The present application relates to a method for the catalytic hydrogenation of methylol alkanals of the general formula (cf. claim 1) in liquid phase on a hydrogenation catalyst, characterised in that, by adding at least one tertiary amine, a pH value of 6.3 to 6.8 can be set in the hydrogenation feed.

D1 is considered the closest prior art and differs from the subject matter of claim 1 in that the pH value of the hydrogenation feed is not disclosed.

The problem addressed by the present invention can therefore be considered the provision of an improved method for the catalytic hydrogenation of methylol alkanals. Although in D1 (cf. the passages cited in the search report) a tertiary amine is added to the hydrogenation feed, it is not obvious to a person skilled in the art to set the pH value of the hydrogenation feed

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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at 6.3 to 7.8 by adding a tertiary amine. As is apparent from table 1 of the present application, the yield of neopentyl glycol produced by hydrogenation at a pH of 7.4 is 93.04%, but with pH values of 5.3 and 8.3, it is less than 92%.

The subject matter of claims 1-9 therefore meets the criteria of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).